

MINERS JUBILEE 2018

"If I won the lotto I'd ride bulls till the day I die. I don't think I'll ever be ready to hang it up. Wanting to get on never leaves."

— Johnny Owens, Baker City bull rider

OWENS

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Organizers said they're expecting 40 bull riders Saturday and 35 bronc riders Friday for two of the signature events during the Miners Jubilee weekend.

Organizer Ken McPherson said the Baker City events are competing with other rodeos this weekend, so registration is open until the last minute. He expects to "get some exceptional cowboys here."

McPherson said one of the highlights is the crowd the event draws every year.

"We have some pretty loyal fans," he said. "We have a full house every year."

He said the \$25,000 prize draws some big names to Baker including the Wright brothers of Utah and Ryan Mackenzie of Jordan Valley who will all return this year to vie for another title.

"It's some of the best bronc riding in the U.S.," said McPherson.

For Owens it's fun to compete in Baker, despite the added pressure of trying to hang on for eight seconds with his family and friends looking on.

"It's Baker. You can't walk down the street without seeing someone you know," he said.

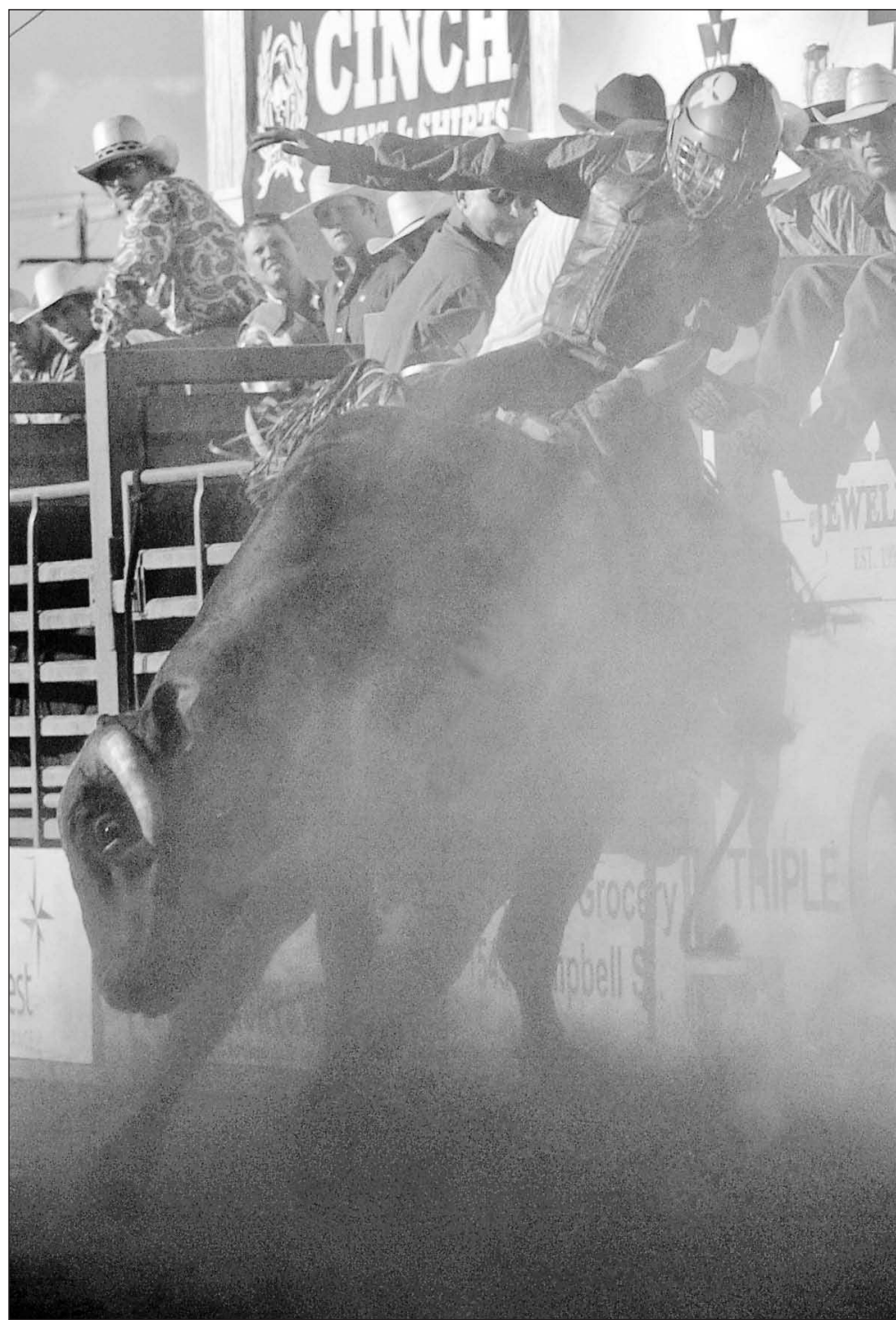
While this rodeo is an important test for him, Owens said it's also a big deal for family members who have urged the rider to hang up his competition gear.

"I think my family's showing up because they're worried," he said.

He's not ready to listen to their advice yet, though.

"I'm not ready to quit riding bulls," said Owens. "I don't think I'll ever be ready to hang it up. Wanting to get on never leaves."

Owens said he's not as worried about getting hurt riding bulls as he is about the



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Johnny Owens meets a dusty challenge during a previous Baker City Bull Riding event held at the Baker Fair Grounds rodeo arena.

implications on his ranching career outside of the rodeo.

"If I won the lotto, I'd ride bulls till the day I die," he said, because he wouldn't have to worry about maintaining his business when he's not in the arena.

He grew up on his family's commercial ranch and continued that lifestyle.

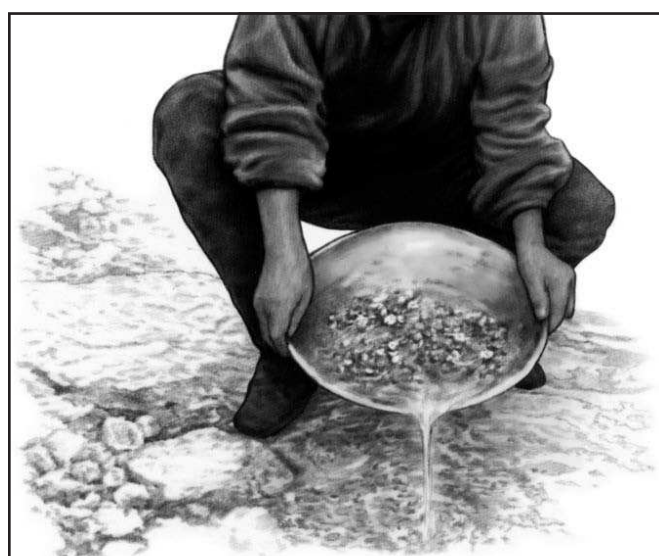
The leg fracture he

suffered last August was his worst as a rider. And although Owens said the bone is "as healed as it's going to get," he has arthritis in his knee that makes it painful for him to ride a horse for too long.

Owens began his rodeo career nine years ago during his sophomore year of high school. He listed some of his

injuries since then, including beating up his collar bone, ribs, shoulder and leg.

"There are things that are out of my control. All I can do is my best," he said, citing the unpredictability of the draw for bulls in addition to his health. "You want to ride your bulls. Before you can think about winning, you have to ride your bulls."



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POWDER RIVER MUSIC REVIEW

JUBILEE MUSIC - Powder River Pavilion in Park

Thanks to Jubilee Music sponsors: **Sorbenots Coffee, OTEC, Scorpio International, Austin House Café & Country Store, Oregon Trail Motel & Restaurant, and Baker City Events**

July 20 - 1 pm HonkyTonk History/NE OR
Lonnie The Eclectic Cowboy

July 20 - 3 pm Brass Fire
Ten-piece horn band

July 21 - 1 pm
Just 4 Fun Band
50's & 60's Classic Country

July 21 - 3pm **Leather and Lace**
Cowboy vocals by Carolyn & Lonnie
keyboard, guitars,
mouth harp, banjo

July 22 - 1 pm
Blue Yesterdays
Big Band Sounds of the 20's and 30's

July 22 - 3:30 pm Americana by
The Wasteland Kings

Jubilee Music info table at back stage Powder River Pavilion where donations are accepted to help fund music. Enter to win basket of goodies. Buy a raffle ticket for \$5 or extra arm length of tickets for \$20

DOWNTOWN DANCE

July 21 - 8 - 11 pm **Frank Carlson**
Court Street between Main and Resort

Jubilee music organized by Baker City Events
Special thanks to Media Supporters:
Baker City Herald, KBKR, Base Camp Baker,
Baker County Chamber, and Oregon Festivals & Events
Like us at: www.facebook.com/powderrivermusicreview
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BHS Class Reunions

Miners Jubilee has become the traditional time for Baker High School class reunions.

CLASS OF 1948

- Friday: Meet in the lobby of the Sunridge Inn, 4 p.m.
- Saturday: Breakfast in the park, 8 a.m., for members of the classes of 1948, 1949 and 1950
- Saturday: Dinner in the banquet room of Sunridge Inn, 5 p.m.
- Sunday: Breakfast in the park, 8 a.m.

CLASS OF 1955

- The class of 1955 invites members of the classes of 1954, 1955 and 1956 to a no-host dinner on Friday at the Haines Steakhouse. Social hour with open bar starts at 6 p.m. Order off the menu for dinner at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, no-host dinner at the Baker Elks Lodge, 1896 Second St. Social hour with open bar at 6 p.m. Order off the menu for dinner at 7:30 p.m.
- More information is available from Mel Cundiff at cundiff@Colorado.edu or 303-444-1011

CLASS OF 1968

- Friday and Saturday at 5 p.m. at the 41 Club, 2129 Second St. for a catered meal. Cost is \$30 per person.
- Class will have a float in the Miners Jubilee parade and will gather at 10:15 at Baker Middle School for a photo shoot
- More information is available by calling Linda Spivey Bjorklund at 541-519-3862

CLASS OF 1983

- Friday, informal gathering at the beer garden at the Fairgrounds following the bronc riding
- Saturday, informal gathering at the beer garden at the Fairgrounds following the bull riding

CLASS OF 1998

- Friday, 3:30 p.m., no-host social gathering at Sweet Wife Bakery, 2080 Resort St., cocktails and snacks
- Saturday, parade line up at 10 a.m. at Baker Middle School
- Saturday, 3:30 p.m., family-friendly gathering at Lefty's Taphouse upstairs in the banquet room. Snacks and games for children. Pizza and beverages available downstairs.

CLASS OF 2008

- Friday, informal gathering at the beer garden following the bronc riding
- Saturday, parade line up at 10 a.m. at Baker Middle School.
- Saturday, noon, family gathering at the home of DeeDee and Tabor Clarke, 43635 Old Wingville Road, barbecue and games.

Welcome to Jubilee!

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